

In re Appln. of SENIOR et al.
Appln. No. 09/364,220

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for rebalancing an existing bandwidth allocation to a plurality of devices connected to a computer system via a bus, the method comprising:
 - intercepting a failure of a request by a first device to obtain bandwidth;
 - rebalancing the existing bandwidth allocation to the plurality of devices connected to the bus by requesting that a second device change its bandwidth allocation in accord with a policy, wherein the policy is based, at least in part, on a preference for allocating bandwidth to one device over another, where the preference includes one or more rules selected from a group of rules comprising (1) a rule preferencing a currently running application, (2) a rule preferencing an application running in a foreground, (3) a rule preferencing most recently used application, and (4) a rule preferencing a most frequently running application; and
 - if the second device fails to change its bandwidth allocation, then resetting the second device to release the second device's entire bandwidth allocation.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 where the bus is a Universal Serial Bus (USB).
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 where the bus is a "FireWire" bus.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein rebalancing requires no input from a user and is transparent to the user.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method is implemented using a user-mode application and a user-mode to kernel-mode interface.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the interface between the user-mode and the kernel-mode is a "WMI" interface.

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8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein a hub driver corresponding to a hub connected to the USB intercepts the failure of the first device's request.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein a host controller intercepts the failure of the first device's request.
11. (Cancelled)
- 12-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the policy is based, at least in part, on a preference for a latest device connected to the USB.
- 16-18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for rebalancing an existing bandwidth allocation to a plurality of devices connected to a computer system via a bus, the method comprising:

intercepting a failure of a request by a first device to obtain bandwidth;

rebalancing the existing bandwidth allocation to the plurality of devices connected to the bus by requesting that a second device change its bandwidth allocation in accord with a policy, wherein the policy is based, at least in part, on a preference for allocating bandwidth to one device over another, where the preference includes one or more rules selected from a group of rules comprising (1) a rule preferencing a currently running application, (2) a rule preferencing an application running in a foreground, (3) a rule preferencing most recently used application, and (4) a rule preferencing a most frequently running application; and

if the second device fails to change its bandwidth allocation, then resetting the second device to release the second device's entire bandwidth allocation.

20-37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the policy is based, at least in part, on a preference set by a user of the computer system.